

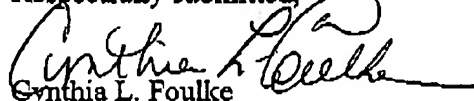
REMARKS

Claims 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable. Claim 12 is now in independent form. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12. Claims 21-26 are newly added. Support may be found, e.g., in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

In order to expedite allowance, claims 1-11 and non-elected claims 15-20 have been canceled. Canceled subject matter will be prosecuted in continuing/division application(s).

Applicants submit that the application is in condition to be allowed. Early and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia L. Foulke
Reg. No. 32,364

January 29, 2004

National Starch and Chemical Company
10 Funderne Avenue
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0500
(908) 685-7483